

Issue NE-CW3403, released August 25, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending August 24, 2003, another week of limited rainfall and temperatures near or exceeding the century mark have further deteriorated dryland crops, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were rated in short and very short supply over 95 percent of the state. Crops under irrigation were also feeling the stress of the hot, dry weather. Producer activities included cutting corn for silage and putting up hay.

Weather Summary: Temperatures ranged from 5 to 9 degrees above normals for the week, with over half of the stations reporting a maximum of 100 degrees or more. Precipitation was scattered and light, with the exception of the southeast area of the state, which averaged near 2.0 inches.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending August 24, 2003				
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	61	47	53	25
Short	37	34	31	31
Adequate	2	19	16	43
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	63	46	68	31
Short	33	34	26	29
Adequate	4	20	6	39
Surplus	0	0	0	1
Days Suitable	6.5	6.8	5.6	6.0

Field Crops Report: Corn condition continued to decline and rated 15 percent very poor, 16 poor, 24 fair, 29 good, and 16 excellent, above last year but below average. Irrigated fields rated 68 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 14. This compares to 50 and 5, respectively, a year ago. Eighty-seven percent had reached the dough stage, behind last year at 90 and average at 89. Forty-two percent of the fields had reached the dent stage, behind last year at 56 and average at 50. Two percent of the acreage was mature, also behind last year at 7 and average at 5.

Soybean condition declined and rated 17 percent very poor, 22 poor, 34 fair, 20 good, and 7 excellent, above last year but below average. Pods had been set on 95 percent of the acreage, behind 98 last year and 97 average. Eight percent of the acreage had turned color, behind both last year and average at 12. Two percent of the crop had dropped

leaves, near last year and average at 3. Aphids continued to be in high numbers, requiring spray for control in some fields.

Sorghum condition declined and rated 17 percent very poor, 33 poor, 37 fair, 12 good, and 1 excellent, above last year but below average. Eighty-two percent of the acreage was headed, behind last year at 88 and average at 93. Heads had turned color on 25 percent of the acreage, behind last year at 40 and average at 30.

Dry bean condition rated 6 percent very poor, 8 poor, 27 fair, 46 good, and 13 excellent. Ninety-one percent had set pods, behind last year at 95 and average at 93. Twenty-two percent of the acreage had turned color, behind last year at 23 and average at 29. Seven percent had dropped leaves, behind 8 last year but ahead of 4 average.

Proso millet harvest made good progress with 22 percent out of the field, well ahead of the 3 percent last year.

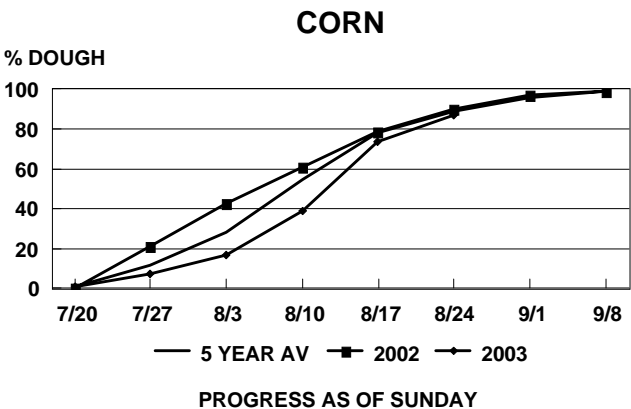
Alfalfa condition declined and rated 23 percent very poor, 26 poor, 27 fair, 19 good, and 5 excellent, above last year but below average. Third cutting activities were 74 percent harvested, behind last year at 80 but the same as average. Fourth cutting activities were underway in a few areas where growth permitted.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending August 24, 2003				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Corn Dough	87	74	90	89
Corn Dent	42	16	56	50
Corn Mature	2	0	7	5
Soybeans Setting Pods	95	83	98	97
Soybeans Turning Color	8	2	12	12
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	2	0	3	3
Sorghum Headed	82	72	88	93
Sorghum Coloring	25	9	40	30
Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	74	61	80	74

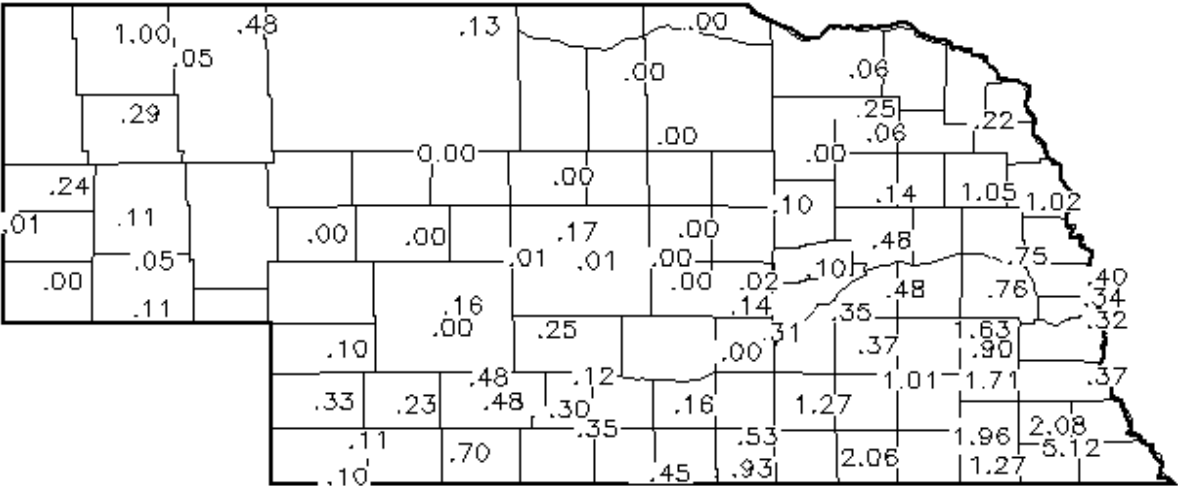
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending August 24, 2003					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Corn	15	16	24	29	16
Soybean	17	22	34	20	7
Sorghum	17	33	37	12	1
Dry Bean	6	8	27	46	13
Alfalfa	23	26	27	19	5

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition declined and rated 34 percent very poor, 32 poor, 27 fair, 6 good, and 1 excellent, above last year but below average. In many areas, pastures were not providing good grazing potential with some producers providing supplemental feed and hauling water.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending August 24, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - August 24, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.24	.02	.30	.07	.90	.35	.39	1.98
Total since April 1	10.05	12.97	15.90	14.54	15.18	13.51	13.74	17.60
Normal since April 1	11.41	14.05	16.05	15.28	16.96	13.51	15.19	17.60
Total as % of normal	87%	92%	98%	95%	89%	99%	90%	100%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, August 24, 2003

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	97	53	75	+6	155	1982	2056
	Scottsbluff	98	51	74	+5	151	2187	2052
	Sidney	99	50	75	+6	151	2047	2105
NC	Ainsworth	101	58	78	+7	173	2147	2262
	Arthur	99	55	77	+6	160	2049	2217
	O'Neill	103	55	79	+7	175	2137	2356
NE	Concord	99	59	77	+6	173	2154	2404
	Elgin	100	57	79	+7	176	2188	2408
	West Point	99	60	78	+5	177	2263	2537
C	Grand Island	98	58	78	+6	177	2299	2436
	Lexington	101	61	80	+8	184	2398	2397
	Ord	100	57	79	+7	176	2222	2419
EC	Lincoln	102	64	82	+7	192	2493	2662
	Central City	98	57	78	+6	177	2309	2472
	Mead	103	61	80	+6	183	2328	2623
SW	Champion	101	54	77	+6	155	2179	2264
	North Platte	100	54	77	+6	161	2242	2287
	Curtis	102	59	80	+8	172	2367	2321
SC	Arapahoe	99	53	76	+5	154	2012	2209
	Minden	98	60	79	+7	177	2356	2405
	Red Cloud	101	64	81	+9	185	2426	2463
SE	Beatrice	102	64	81	+7	182	2424	2662
	Clay Center	95	62	78	+5	175	2287	2458
	Nemaha	104	65	83	+9	194	2585	2672

Source: High Plains Climate Center.